

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 06014 161534Z
ACTION ARA-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 06014

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, BR OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJ: BRAZIL BILATERAL AT OASGA JUNE 15, 1977

1. SUMMARY:

SILVEIRA TOLD SECRETARY BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND FEDERAL-
STATE RELATIONSHIPS GAVE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT NO FLEXIBILITY ON
MULTILATERAL HUMAN RIGHTS COOPERATION OR ON SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL
TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.
HE DID, HOWEVER, EXPRESS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR IAHRC AT PRESENT
RESOURCES LEVEL AND IN ADDITION SUGGESTED THAT IT BE
IMPROVED. SILVEIRA AND THE SECRETARY AGREED SECRETARY WOULD
VISIT BRAZIL IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN OCTOBER. AGREED ALSO
ON NEW BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON TRADE, POLICY PLANNING, ILLICIT
PAYMENTS, AND (LESS CLEARLY) LAW OF THE SEA. THE SECRETARY
SAID HE WOULD LOOK AT THE PROBLEM SILVEIRA RAISED CONCERNING
"AMBIGUITY" IN THE US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE CONVERSATION OVER LUNCH WAS FRANK AND WIDE-
RANGING. SILVEIRA WAS PARTICULARLY BLUNT - AND FAST-TALKING-
ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON THE ALLEDGED "AMBIGUITY"
IN THE US APPROACH TO BRAZIL. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
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PAGE 02 SECTO 06014 161534Z

CAVALCANTI, MEDEIROS AND NOGUEIRA OF THE ITAMARATY. UNDER
SECRETARY HABIB, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TODMAN AND CARTER AND
AMBASSADOR MCGEE WERE ALSO PRESENT.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM OCTOBER DATES FOR
VISIT TO BRAZIL BY A LATER MESSAGE. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD
SEND A FORMAL LETTER TO CONFIRM OUR VIEW THAT THE US-GOB

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REMAINS IN EFFECT. HE SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET THE TRADE SUB-GROUP TOGETHER EARLY; SILVEIRA SAID HE WAS READY TO DO SO. SILVEIRA RAISED THE MATTER OF MEETINGS OF POLICY PLANNING STAFFS. THE SECRETARY AGREED DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR BRAZILIAN SUPPORT AT ECOSOC ON THE PROPOSED ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY. SILVEIRA AGREED THAT THE TWO DELEGATIONS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER. HIS ONLY CONCERN WAS THAT THERE BE A BALANCED POSITION TOWARD THOSE THAT ARE CORRUPTED AND THOSE THAT CORRUPT.

5. THE SECRETARY RECOGNIZED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE SEABED ASPECT OF THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS BUT SIAD HE HOPED THE TWO DELEGATIONS COULD CONSULT. THE FONMIN IMPLICITLY AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD GET TOGETHER IN NEW YORK.

6. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SILVEIRA SAID THAT BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION WAS NOT YET READY TO ACCEPT NEW OBLIGATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. INTERVENTIONISM WAS A CONCERN. STATE GOVERNORS WOULD LIKELY NOT AGREE TO VISITS OF THE IAHR, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO WAY OF FORCING THEM TO DO SO UNDER THE BRAZILIAN'S FEDERAL SYSTEM.

7. THE SECRETARY ASKED FOR BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE STRENGTHENING AND INCREASED FUNDING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. SILVEIRA DECLINED, THOUGH HE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SECTO 06014 161534Z

SUPPORTED THE COMMISSION AS IS. CONVERSATION SHOWED EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO COMMISSION SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ITS LACK OF BALANCE (IN BRAZILIAN EYES). MORE SELECTED INFORMATION SOURCES WERE THE ONE SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT SILVEIRA ADVOCATED, THOUGH HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW IT COULD BE DONE. SILVEIRA DID NOT BUY THE SECRETARY'S ARGUMENT THAT A LARGER STAFF WOULD ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO RELY MORE FULLY ON ITS OWN SOURCES FOR UNCOVERING RELEVANT INFORMATION.

8. RIGHTS DISCUSSIONS LED SILVEIRA TO LONG PRESENTATION OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST US FOR APPARENT AMBIGUITIES IN ITS POLICY ACTION TOWARD BRAZIL. HE CITED ALLEGED MISREPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE TWO PRIESTS MRS CARTER SAW IN RECIFE, CONFUSION OVER NUCLEAR ISSUES, THE TWO CIVIL RIGHTS REPORTS TEXTS AND THE ACTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUNE 14 GRATITUOUSLY DENYING BRAZIL MILITARY COOPERATION IT HAD SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCED, AN ACTION SILVEIRA DEEMED

UNFORGIVABLE (THOUGH FORGETTABLE). THE SECRETARY
AGREED IT WAS NECESSARY TO ABOLISH AMBIGUITY AND SAID
HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE SITUATION.
VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. GREENLEE, S/S-O.

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